



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne B. Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Bruce A. Chernof, MD
Director and Chief Medical Officer

John R. Cochran III
Chief Deputy Director

Robert G. Splawn, MD
Senior Medical Officer

313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 912
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213) 240-8101
Fax: (213) 481-0503

www.ladhs.org

*To improve health
through leadership,
service and education.*



www.ladhs.org

September 17, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE AUTO VS. BUS
ACCIDENT OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2007**

This is in response to Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke's request to provide a report on a traffic accident involving a bus and automobile on September 2, 2007.

The Sheriff's Department reports that an older model car traveling eastbound on Compton Avenue was struck on the right side by a bus traveling northbound on Willowbrook Avenue. The Sheriff's deputy states that the bus driver had a "minor complaint" but was not transported to a hospital. Compton Fire Department (Rescue 441) responded to a 43 year old female in the driver's seat of the car. According to paramedics, there was no deployment of the car's airbag, no passenger space intrusion into the vehicle, and no spidering of the windshield. The patient was wearing a seatbelt per paramedic documentation but the Sheriff's deputy states she was not. Her chief complaint was of "total body pain" with a focus on neck and back pain. At 9:40am the paramedics contacted Harbor-UCLA Medical Center base station for medical orders and destination. Because of the patient injury to the chest, the paramedics requested transport to a trauma center, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (HGH).

The patient was treated at HGH emergency department and admitted for surgery. Following the initial surgery, she was again taken to the operating room to control continuous bleeding. She subsequently died in the HGH Intensive Care Unit from complex liver injury and metabolic acidosis.

The field care was appropriate for the patient, the paramedics acted within their scope of practice and followed all Los Angeles County pre-hospital policies and protocols, including hospital destination. Despite the fact that the patient did not present initially as being severely hurt, paramedics astutely recognized the possibility of internal injury and requested a trauma center destination.

If you have questions or require additional information, please let me know.

BAC:cc
709:002

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors